



Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office

THE FLAME

Emergency Services News Letter



FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS **FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS** **FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS**

JUNE, 2007

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Fire Destroys Hay Shed - Buck Shoals

A late afternoon fire on Sunday, May 20th destroyed a shed and approximately 500 round bales of hay at the Myers Farm at the Yadkin-Iredell County line. Firefighters from seven fire departments from Yadkin and Iredell counties responded to the fire. Firefighters managed to extinguish a nearby barn before it was destroyed.

Firefighters from both counties worked in shifts throughout the night to make sure the burning hay bales did not spark a fire in nearby structures.

Responding units included Buck Shoals, Lone Hickory, West Yadkin, Union Grove, Harmony,

Central School and Wilkes Iredell fire departments. The Yadkin County EMS responded for standby. The Yadkin County Fire Marshal and Emergency Management responded to assist the departments.

The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time.



Hay Shed Fire at the Myers Farm near the Yadkin-Iredell County Line.

2nd Fire Strikes Myers Farm

Just a week and one day since the massive hay shed fire at the Myers Farm, another hay shed at the farm burns. The early Tuesday morning fire prompted a response from five fire departments from Yadkin and Iredell counties.

The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time pending further investigation.



**“Fire
is
Dark”**

This is Fire!



Every day Americans experience the horror of fire. But most people don't understand fire. Only when we know the true nature of fire can we prepare ourselves and our families. Each year more than 4,000 Americans die and approximately 25,000 are injured in fires, many of which could be prevented.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), believes that fire deaths can be reduced by teaching people the basic facts about fire.

Fire is Dark! Fire starts as bright but in seconds generates black, choking smoke. You won't even be able to see your hand in front of your face, so know where you're going! Practice fire drills with your eyes closed, feeling your way to safety.

Source: US Fire Administration

NC Forest Service Burning Permits



Get Your Burning Permits Online
www.dfr.state.nc.us



Upcoming Events / Deadlines

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Fire Chief's Association Meeting - Fall Creek VFD | July 11, 2007 |
| • 1st Responder Committee Meeting - Yadkin Campus SCC | July 18, 2007 |
| • Fire & Rescue Association Meeting - Buck Shoals VFD | July 19, 2007 |
| • Local Emergency Planning Committee - Yadkinville VFD | August 2, 2007 |

Lightning Safety Awareness Week

June 24-30, 2007

Submitted By: Phil Hysell, National Weather Service

Did you know that in 2005 there were an estimated 633,655 lightning strikes in North Carolina? Each one of these lightning discharges is a potential killer, which is why it is important to prepare you and your family.

The National Weather Service does not issue warnings for lightning because, by definition, all thunderstorms produce lightning. As a result, it is up to you to protect yourself from the dangers of lightning. From 1973 through 2002 more people in the United States died from lightning than from tornadoes or hurricanes.

Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from where rain is falling from a thunderstorm. As a result, if you can hear thunder you are within striking distance. Use the 30/30 rule to determine when to move to and leave shelter. When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If that time is 30 seconds or less, seek shelter immediately. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before leaving shelter.

The National Weather Service reminds you to follow these safety rules: When outside, avoid high places, open areas (including golf courses, lakes, and other sport fields) and tall isolated objects such as trees and power lines. Get out of boats and away from water. Avoid open structures such as picnic shelters. A safe shelter during lightning is inside a fully enclosed, substantial building, or a vehicle with a solid metal roof. If you seek shelter in a vehicle avoid touching metal.

Indoors, stay away from anything connected to power, telephone, and cable lines. Cordless phones are O.K. Stay away from water or plumbing. Unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information.

For more information about lightning and lightning safety please visit: www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

Yadkin Co. Fire Departments - Receives State Grants

In 1988 the General Assembly created the Fire Grant Fund to help volunteer fire departments raise money for equipment and supplies. The funds are matching grants, the state matches dollar-for-dollar, up to an approved amount. The following departments received the 2007 Volunteer Fire Department Fund.

Buck Shoals Vol. Fire Department	\$19,400.00
Jonesville Vol. Fire Department	\$15,053.62
Lone Hickory Vol. Fire Department	\$14,813.21
Fall Creek Vol. Fire Department	\$ 3,680.00

Missing Man Found in Good Condition

Submitted By: Dale Trivette, Emergency Management Coordinator

Early on the morning of May 7th J. E. "Coozie" Finney left his home for his usual morning walk. A few hours later, when he hadn't returned, his family reported him missing. Earlier, Communications had received a call of a man wearing pajamas beside I-77 north of US 21. By late afternoon a full scale search was underway. The Mobile Command Center was set up in the parking lot of Glenn's Restaurant at US 21 & I-77. A staging area was established at Bible Baptist Church. Utilizing canine search teams, a State Highway Patrol Helicopter, ATV's, and ground search teams; the search centered around the area east and west of I-77 north of US 21. Dogs followed Mr. Finney's trail to a chicken house east of I-77 where they lost the scent. As the night wore on the concern grew. Mr. Finney suffers from Alzheimer's and the forecasted low temperature of 40° F would be difficult for someone dressed in pajamas to endure. The search teams were focused on the area from Fox Knob Rd to Little Mountain Rd in the early morning hours of May 8th. Finally, shortly before 08:00 hrs, Mr. Finney was spotted by a lady who was alerted by her dogs barking. Mr. Finney was transported to Hugh Chatham Hospital where he was found to be in good condition after about 25 hours away from home. He apparently spent at least part of the night in a chicken house. Over 100 people from Law, Fire, Rescue, Forestry, EMS, EM, and other agencies participated in the search. A critique of the search was held on May 14th at Arlington VFD. Hopefully, through the lessons learned during this search, Yadkin County is a little better prepared for the next incident.

SKYWARN Training Conducted at Arlington VFD

Submitted By: Dale Trivette, Emergency Management Coordinator

About 25 people showed up at Arlington VFD on April 12th for the SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotter training class. Phil Hysell, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Blacksburg, Virginia, presented a very interesting and informative class. He explained the role of Weather Spotters, why they are needed, and what they should report. With an excellent use of slides and videos, he explained the different types of storms and what to look for to identify severe weather formations.

Throughout the presentation Hysell stressed safety. While the weather spotter's job is important, no spotter should take unnecessary risks. Among the safety tips for tornados and high wind was the acronym DUCK.

Down to the basement or lowest level
Under something sturdy
Cover your head
Keep in shelter until the storm has passed

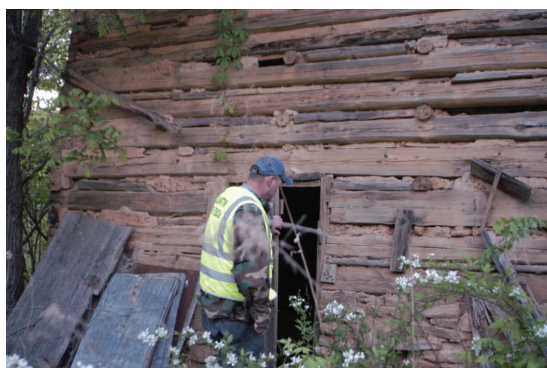
And while hard-top vehicles offer protection from lightning and hail, they are not the place to be during a tornado. Also, do not take cover under overpasses. While they may seem to be a safe refuge, actually the winds are greater under an overpass than in an open area. In all cases, **Use Common Sense** and **DON'T TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS!**

National Weather Websites of Interest:

National Weather Service: <http://weather.gov>
 National Weather Service Blacksburg, VA: <http://weather.gov/blacksburg>
 National Hurricane Center: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
 Storm Prediction Center: <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/>
 National Weather Service GIS Data: <http://www.weather.gov/gis>

Finney Search Photo Gallery

Photo's: Courtesy of The Yadkin Ripple



National Weather Service Fire Weather Program

Submitted By: Phil Hysell, National Weather Service

When one thinks about the National Weather Service, one of the first things that come to mind is the life saving tornado, severe thunderstorm, and flash flood warnings we issue. Our agency does much more than issue warnings. One important program area in the National Weather Service (NWS) which you may not be aware is our fire weather program.

The NWS issues fire weather forecasts twice day and updates as needed to help national, regional and local management agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service. This forecast contains weather information such as cloud cover, temperature, moisture levels, winds, and chances of precipitation relevant to fire control and smoke management for the next 36 to 48 hours. Agencies use this information to plan for staffing, equipment levels, the ability to do prescribed burns, and assess the daily fire danger.

Weather is one of the most significant factors in determining the severity of wild land fires. The spread rate and intensity of fires is directly rated to the wind speed, temperature and relative humidity. Climatic conditions such as drought also play a major role in the number and intensity of fires. Accurate and timely weather information is vital to the planning and execution of strategies for suppressing wildfires. An accurate weather forecast can mean life or death to a fire fighter and is also critical in protecting forest and range lands.

Just like for severe thunderstorms, floods, and tornados, the NWS will issue watches and warnings to alert people about the potential for extreme fire behavior.

A Red Flag Warning is issued when forecast weather conditions together with existing environmental conditions could result in extreme fire behavior or, as in the case of dry lightning, extensive fire starts in the next 12 hours.

A Fire Weather Watch is issued when forecast weather conditions together with existing environmental conditions may result in extreme fire behavior or, as in the case of dry lightning, extensive fire starts in the next 12 to 36 hours.

State and Federal forestry officials sometimes request a forecast from the NWS for a specific location, which is called a "spot forecast". Spot forecasts are mostly used to plan for a controlled burn, to determine whether it will be safe to ignite it and how to situate crews during the controlling phase. Once a "spot forecast" is received, the NWS Service will compose a short-term fire weather forecast for the location and send it back to the officials.

The NWS also assist official's at large wildfires or other disasters by providing on-ground support through Incident Meteorologist (IMET). IMET's are NWS forecasters specially trained to work with Incident Management Teams during severe wildfire outbreaks or other disasters requiring onsite weather support. IMET's travel quickly to the incident site and then assemble a mobile weather center capable or providing continuous meteorological support for the duration of the incident. As of this writing, the IMET from the Blacksburg NWS office is deployed in South Georgia providing support for the wildfires there.

Anyone can check the fire weather forecast for their area. Simply visit our website at: www.weather.gov/blacksburg and select "Fire Weather" from the left hand menu.

Attention ATV Riders in NORTH CAROLINA

Ride Right! The new North Carolina ATV safety law (SB 189) was passed for your safety. To ride right, be **at least 8 years old** and:

Ride an ATV that's right for your age (20-171.10):

- 8-11 years of age – under 70cc engine displacement
- 12-15 years of age – 70cc-90cc engine displacement
- 16 years of age and older – over 90cc engine displacement

Ride supervised (20-171.10):

- ATVs are not toys. If you are under age 16 you must be supervised by a person who is at least 18 years old

Ride with protection (20-171.14):

- Always wear a DOT-approved helmet
- Always wear eye protection

Ride in control (20-171.11):

- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider vehicle

Ride aware (20-171.14):

- Be on your game – No alcohol or other drugs that can impair vision and coordination
- Never ride on public streets or roads – another vehicle could hit you
- Stay on trails and ride at a safe speed

Ride an ATV that has (20-171.13):

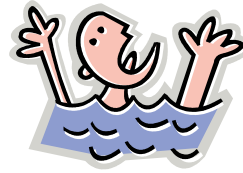
- A brake system in good working order
- An effective muffler
- A USDA Forest Service approved spark arrester



To enroll in the *ATV RiderCourse* nearest you, go to www.atvsafety.org or call 800.887.2887

Cool Down, Don't Drown

Donnie Martin, EMT-P Supervisor



The dog days of summer are approaching along with the heat and humidity. With sweat pouring and temperatures rising the only relief comes from a good cool dip in the water. The river, creek, or pool can bring pleasant relief as well as a relaxing and exciting time with the friends. The summer pool party, river swings or fishing can all be great fun but can also bring tragedy if you are not playing it safe.

Drowning and near drowning occur each year to eight thousand people. Two thirds occur in the summer, 40% on Saturday and Sundays and 90% occur in fresh water. So what is the difference between a drowning and near drowning? What do I do for the person? How can I help myself? Drowning is death by asphyxiation by water within 24 hours of submersion. Water fills the air passages and prevents oxygenation. This is the term used for a wet drowning. There is another term used and that is dry drowning. Dry drowning occurs as a result of laryngospasm that actually prevents water from entering the lungs but the lungs receive no air due to the spasm. Eventually that spasm will relax and water will flow into the lungs. Should the person be rescued prior to the spasm relaxing ventilations will be very difficult. These spasms don't typically last long as the muscles will become hypoxic and relax. Surviving a drowning after a 24 period is a near drowning.

How do I help a person that is drowning? The first and foremost rule is not to become a victim yourself. A leading cause of rescuer deaths is drowning. Firefighters, police, medics, first responders as well as citizens die every year by trying to save a person that is drowning and there are even deaths while training for water rescue operations. There are several things you can do to help a person before putting yourself at risk. These victims will be panicking!! If you get in the water with them they 'WILL' get to you and they will pull you down with them!! The old saying that "they will climb you like a monkey on a vine" is true! The only thing that a person has on their mind is survival and anything that gets near them they will grab onto. If that is you and you do not have the proper training and have not approached the victim properly you are now in trouble. Throw, tow, row and go, is a way to remember the safest ways to assist a victim. Throw a rope; throw a floatation device or anything that will float. Then tow them in. A pike pole or similar long object to add distance between you. Sheppard hooks at the pools are made for this. Make sure you can get away from them. These people can move quickly and have you so make sure you can move out of their reach. A boat, canoe or kayak can be used for them to grab onto but be careful as they can tip you. Don't try to get them into the boat, tow them in. As a last resort, go in yourself. This is **HIGHLY DANGEROUS** and you must not undertake it lightly. Exhaust all other attempts before deciding on this plan of action. It is beyond the scope of this article to explain the procedure of rescuing a drowning victim. Life guard training is required to gain the skills required to rescue these people. If you choose to undertake this without training, you are risking your life!! After a patient is rescued treat them using the ABC's.



CPR as usual if they have arrested. Be aware that you will need to be prepared with suction and position the patient for dependent drainage. Defibrillate as usual making sure that the skin is as dry as possible under the pads. If the patient is conscious administer oxygen at high flow rates, position them to protect the airway in case of vomiting and take vital signs. Keep them warm. These patients need to be evaluated in the Emergency Department.

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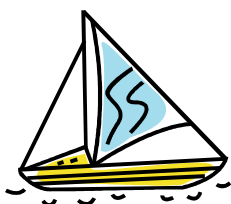
Cool Down, Don't Drown

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Chest x-rays and blood work studies need to be done and an overnight stay in the hospital. Just because they have initially survived they can still suffer lung damage and can die 48 plus hours later from complications. Should there be any chance that the patient has a c-spine injury from a diving accident use c-spine immobilization protocols. You can place a person on a board in the water and provide ventilations as well. Should you respond to a pool that has life guards on duty they will have the person already packaged and if needed providing ventilations and CPR. They are a valuable resource for information and assistance in the resuscitation efforts.

How do I help myself? If you can't swim, learn. Always wear a life jacket. Being a strong swimmer does not help if you have hit your head or are intoxicated. Take lessons from the YMCA or other agencies. If you find your self getting tired in the water, stop and relax make your way to shore or the pools edge. Avoid panicking. Panic is a KILLER. Make sure that your family can swim especially your children. Keep barrels and buckets covered if they contain water. It is possible and it has happened, here in Yadkin County for children less than one year old to drown in buckets and barrels. Take all the safety precautions you can when dealing with children and water. As I have begun writing this article there have been 4 people drown in the triad all ready and an NFL player with the New England Patriots died as a result of a jet skiing accident last month.



Water is fun to be around and play in. Go boating, kayaking, fishing, jet skiing, whatever activity you like. Avoid the alcohol. Wear an approved life jacket. Be careful and watch those precious children. Have a fun, wet and safe summer. And hey, watch that sunburn too.

Fire Destroys Chicken House - Fall Creek

A late afternoon fire destroyed a chicken house on Wednesday, June 6th located off of Copperhead Drive in the Fall Creek Community. Firefighters from Fall Creek, East Bend and Boonville fire departments battled the blaze. Firefighters were able to keep the fire from spreading to another nearby chicken house. Approximately 9,600 chickens were also lost in the fire.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.



GET THERE...



SAFE




(Jeep is a registered trademark of DaimlerChrysler Corporation)

1. **WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT**
2. **STOP AT EVERY INTERSECTION**
3. **DON'T SPEED**

Forbush Fire Department

Submitted By: Dale Couch

HOT NEWS

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

The Forbush Volunteer Fire Department will begin a Part Time Paid Program in July. This program has been planned out within the budget for the past four years. Forbush has planned on working one Firefighter/EMT Monday thru Friday from 8am to 5pm. This will ensure a quicker response to the citizens of our community in a time when manpower needs are the greatest. This Firefighter will keep all apparatus and equipment in a state of readiness and help us to lower the ISO rating of the Forbush Fire District, which means a savings on homeowner insurance premiums. All this was made possible without an increase in the tax rate.

Fireworks Facts: Have a Safe 4th of July



Did you know that most fireworks are illegal in North Carolina and that penalties for breaking this law include fines up to \$500 and jail time. Not only are most fireworks illegal, but they also cause many injuries such as; eye damage, burns and scars. Also, fireworks are responsible for many fires each year.

Any fireworks that explode, spin, leave the ground or fly through the air are illegal in North Carolina. Examples of illegal fireworks include firecrackers, ground spinners, roman candles, bottle rockets and mortars. Purchasing fireworks from other states that are banned and bringing them into North Carolina is illegal.

Legal fireworks include sparklers, fountains, glow worms and snap pops. Even these legal fireworks are dangerous and cause many injuries each year. For example, sparklers can burn as hot as 1,200 degrees F.

Safety Tips:

- ⇒ Fireworks should be handled by responsible adults.
- ⇒ Read the directions before attempting to light the fireworks.
- ⇒ Never attempt to make your own fireworks.
- ⇒ Never point fireworks at people, pets and buildings.
- ⇒ Never use fireworks indoors and keep away from dry grass and wooded areas.
- ⇒ Have a hose or bucket of water nearby in case of an emergency.

One sure way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a professional fireworks show.

NEWS LETTER INFORMATION

Submit news letter information to Eddie Weatherman

eweatherman@yadkincountync.gov

To receive a copy of the news letter, send email request.

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REMEMBERING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

